

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Date Issued: 7/23/2015

2015 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 81
Summer Announcement # 71, Yukon River Subdistrict 6-C Personal Use Fishing Schedule
Districts Affected: Upper Yukon Area

The 2015 summer chum salmon total run is projected to be approximately 1.8 million fish. The total estimated passage of summer chum salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station was approximately 1,384,000 summer chum salmon as of July 18. The fourth pulse of summer chum salmon is expected to be in Manley starting July 23.

The Chinook salmon run is currently tracking at the lower end of the preseason projection of 118,000–140,000 fish. The total estimated passage of Chinook salmon past the sonar project near Pilot Station is approximately 115,500 Chinook salmon as of July 18, which is below average. However, the Tanana River stocks of Chinook salmon are stronger than expected. Escapement goals for Chinook salmon were met at the Chena and Salcha rivers counting towers on July 16 and July 19, respectively.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon and that escapement goals have been met in the Chena and Salcha rivers, the requirements to man fish wheels at all times of operation and release Chinook salmon alive are being discontinued in the personal use fishery in Subdistrict 6-C effective Friday, July 24. Additionally, 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets can also be used for personal use fishing. Chinook salmon caught in gillnets and fish wheels may be retained for personal use.

Subdistrict 6-C (from the regulatory marker at the mouth of the Wood River upstream to the downstream mouth of the Salcha River, which includes the communities of Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha):

Currently, personal use salmon fishing is open on its regulatory schedule consisting of two 42-hour periods each week, from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 p.m. noon Sundays and from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 p.m. noon Wednesdays, and fishermen may use live-release fish wheels only.

Effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 24, fishermen are no longer required to attend their fish wheel while it is in operation or release Chinook salmon alive during personal use salmon fishing. Fishermen may also use 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets. Chinook salmon caught in 6-inch or smaller mesh size gillnet gear and fish wheels may be kept for personal use. Subdistrict 6-C will remain on its regulatory personal use fishing schedule.

Personal Use fishermen are reminded that a permit is required to fish for salmon in Subdistrict 6-C. Personal Use fisherman are required to report their harvest catches to the department by **4:30 PM Thursday** each week by contacting the department at **(907) 459-7388**. When you call, provide your name, permit number, fishing location, and daily catch by species for that week.

Non-salmon species may be harvested using 4-inch or smaller mesh size gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length in District 6 during subsistence salmon fishing closures.

However, as a reminder, if you are planning to personal use fish for whitefish and sucker in the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, you will need to contact the Fairbanks Fish and Game office to obtain a Personal Use Whitefish and Sucker permit.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates are available 24 hours a day at **1-866-479-7387** or in Fairbanks call **459-7387**. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Fairbanks ADF&G office at 459-7274.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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